

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279661

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL

A. STATE OF SEIGE IMPOSED, CRISIS CONTINUES

ALTHOUGH ALL FOUR AIR BASES WERE REPORTED UNDER GOVERN-
MENT CONTROL BY 2100 EST NOVEMBER 25, REBEL PARATROOPERS
REOCCUPIED TANCOS AIR BASE AND, AT 0800 LOCAL (0200 EST),
THERE WAS HEAVY FIRING NEAR THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.
EMBASSY LISBON BELIEVES THE GOVERNMENT HAS THINGS UNDER
CONTROL BUT COMMENTS THAT THE REMAINING INSTABILITY POSES
SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT DECLARED A PARTIAL STATE OF SEIGE,
IMPOSED A CURFEW FROM MIDNIGHT TO 0600, AND TEMPORARILY
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BANNED PUBLICATION OF ALL NEWSPAPERS AND PARTY COMMUNI-

QUES. AN ULTRA-LEFTIST CROWD OF ABOUT 2000 WHICH GATHERED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WAS ADDRESSED BY COSTA GOMES AND OTELO AND WAS LATER DISPERSED AFTER SHOOTING AND SOME INJURIES.

LABOR MINISTER ROSA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT THE MUTINY WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF COMMUNIST PARTY ENCOURAGEMENT TO KEY MILITARY REBELS AND SPECULATED:

--THE COMMUNISTS HAD FAILED TO PRECIPITATE A RIGHT-IST COUNTER COUP, WHICH THEY HAD HOPED WOULD IN TURN SPARK WIDESPREAD PROTEST OUT OF WHICH THEY COULD CLAIM BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT.

--IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSUMED CHARGE OF THE SITUATION AND ORDERED IN THE COMMANDOS ONLY AFTER WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY THE TIDE WOULD TURN. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 7029 (SITREP 10), 7032 (SITREP 13), 7040 (SITREP 19) 7038 (SITREP 18) AND 7041 (SITREP 20.)

B. FRENCH ALARMED OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

TWO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY PARIS THEIR KEEN CONCERN OVER THE RAPID DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY WORRIED THAT:

--A CIVIL WAR IN PORTUGAL CAN NO LONGER BE RULED OUT, WITH A POLITICAL AND MILITARY SPLIT ENVISIONED ALONG ROUGHLY NORTH-SOUTH LINES.

--THE EEC MAY HAVE BEEN TOO PRECIPITATE IN THE EXTENT OF ITS COMMITMENT TO THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT.

--SPAIN'S CONSERVATIVES ARE LIKELY TO USE THE PORTUGUESE EXAMPLE AS A FURTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST LIBERALIZATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 30779 (EXDIS), 11/25.)

2. ISRAEL: ABBA EBAN CRITICIZES GOI POLICY OF STAGNATION CONFIDENTIAL

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FORMER ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ABBA EBAN, IN A NOVEMBER 21 INTERVIEW, CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH PURSUING A POLICY OF STAGNATION BY DISMISSING THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN, MINIMIZING THE CHANCES FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, AND REFUSING TO DEAL WITH JORDAN AND THE PLO ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE. THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THIS POLICY, IN HIS

ESTIMATION, WILL BE:

--WAR WITH SYRIA;

--STRONG US CRITICISM OF ISRAEL'S LACK OF MOVEMENT;
AND

--SOVIET PRESSURE FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WITH ATTENDANT PROBLEMS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: EBAN HAS NOW EMERGED AS THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE LABOR PARTY MODERATES CHALLENGING THE GOI FOREIGN POLICY LINE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 7461, 11/25.)

3. MARCOS PRAISES AUTHORITARIAN RULE

IN A NOVEMBER 24 SPEECH, PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE A SWEEPING DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S "CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITARIANISM" AND UNABASHEDLY LAUDED THE MOVEMENT FROM "SLAVISH ADVOCACY OF JEFFERSONIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE PURSUIT AND FOUNDING OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT WILL SERVE OUR REAL NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS AS A NATION." EMBASSY MANILA COMMENTS THAT THE REMARKS, WHICH ARE PROBABLY UNRELATED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT, DEMONSTRATE THAT THE GOP HAS DISPENSED WITH LIP SERVICE TO DEMOCRACY. WHAT REMAINS IS UNADORNED ONE-MAN RULE. (CONFIDENTIAL) MANILA 16563, 11/25.)

4. COFFEE NEGOTIATIONS GRIND TO A STALEMATE

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE COFFEE NEGOTIATORS ARE DEADLOCKED ON THE TWO KEY ISSUES OF DIVISION OF MARKET
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SHARES AMONG PRODUCERS AND BRAZIL'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED SHORTFALL PROVISION. IF THINGS DO NOT PERK UP BY THE DECEMBER 1 MEETING AND THE DELEGATES REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE, THE MOST LIKELY RESULT WILL BE A THREE-YEAR COFFEE AGREEMENT LACKING THE DESIRED ECONOMIC PROVISIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 18152, 11/25.) KISSINGER

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